

Re: An Act Concerning Raw Milk (6313) and An Act Concerning the Sale of Adulterated Milk and Milk Products (6312)

Dear Environmental Committee,

I am Andrew Rule and live in Wallingford, and am a consumer of Raw (or as I like to say Real) Milk. I buy most of my milk from Deerfield Farm, but often from the store, Thyme and Season.

****Growing up I had a milking goat, and drank it raw. My late father graduated from UCONN in the 1950's with a degree in MicroBiology, studied dairy while at UCONN, was aware of the debate (that some in the State Health Dept. say that was "settled" since the 1920's) of whether or not to allow raw milk for health and safety reasons. My dad was epidemiologist for St. Raphael's in New Haven, and Registered Sanitarian for the towns of Middletown and Southington. My dad encouraged me in our little "4H" project, and he specifically had no problems for his family to drink raw milk. I remember him talking about the subject at the time (though, many of the details of those conversations were above my head at the time and subsequently I have forgotten some of it). My dad was certainly well qualified to know if raw milk is safe, under what conditions, and he actively thought about it. The conditions of our little "dairy" didn't meet the standards of commercial raw milk dairies of Connecticut today (I was responsible for it and I was in 7th & 8th grade), but it was good enough for the welfare of his family. This should say something about the safety of Real Milk in Connecticut today.**

****The sanitary conditions of milk production are different and much improved today compared with the 1920's, therefore much of the concerns of public safety, against Raw Milk Sales are obsolete.**

****I have a fundamental human right to grow, buy and consume food that I deem appropriate for my and my family's well being. This legislation would infringe upon that fundamental human right. It would undermine the economic well being of my food provider. It may even put them out of business. I have considered going back to the dairy goat method, but it wouldn't be as rigorous in safety as Deerfield Milk, not to mention it would be a hardship.**

****Raw milk is often of higher quality because it is closer to the source. The standards tend to be higher for this product. It is a domestic industry that needs to be protected (in this case from these proposed legislations). It tastes good, is healthier for you (through better nutrient profile) and coincidentally helps our local farmers which encourages open space and habitat for other wildlife in Connecticut as well as enriches our culture.**

****We should consider our State Heroine, Prudence Crandall. She faced legislation that didn't necessarily prohibit the teaching of African-American women, but made regulations that were onerous, which was the "back door" to undermining her school. State officials are on record for a desire to prohibit raw milk sales altogether. And, this legislation IS designed to be that back door.**

**** The system that is in place now works. There is no need to further regulation of Raw milk producers. Therefore, I urge that no action be taken at this time. Please leave well enough alone. Thank you.**

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